

# FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



11 JAN 2006

## MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Holiday Traffic Fatalities -- Fatality Memo 06-04

1. The Phantom Corps experienced four fatal traffic accidents during the recent Christmas/New Year Holiday period. The traffic accidents claimed the lives of three Soldiers, one civilian team member, and a spouse. The first victim was traveling with her spouse and was involved in a single vehicle accident. In the second incident the Soldier's vehicle drifted into the opposite traffic lane and collided with a 5-ton truck. The third victim operated a motorcycle at a high rate of speed and when a vehicle turned into his lane the Soldier was unable to control his motorcycle and struck the rear of vehicle. A commercial truck and trailer crossed into the opposite traffic lane and struck the last victim's vehicle. Both the Soldier and spouse perished.

2. During the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2006, needless Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) accidents claimed the lives of seven Corps team mates. Initial reports indicate that fatigue and excessive speed contributed to the recent fatal accidents. Last year the Corps lost 22 Soldiers in POV accidents. The major contributing factors in those accidents were: excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, and aggressive driving with a failure to use personal safety equipment contributing to the severity of several of those injuries.

3. All leaders must be fully engaged in POV accident prevention. Get involved with your Soldier's POV travel plans. Ensure they are aware of potential risks and proven risk reduction actions. Have Soldiers attend vehicle accident avoidance training. Most units and installations offer classroom instruction in addition to web-based courses on Army Knowledge Online. Soldiers can register for these courses through the Army's Learning Management System for the Army Traffic Safety Program, Accident Avoidance Course for Army Motor Vehicle Drivers (<https://www.us.army.mil>).

4. As warfighters our focus is often on the Global War on Terrorism, but we are also challenged with the "War on the Highways". As leaders, we must commit to protecting our Soldiers-both on duty and off duty. Leaders and Soldiers must continue to mentor each other on how to make the right decision and avoid accidents. We must make a difference in the "War on the Highways", our safety and the safety of those we care about depends on it.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS**

THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:  
IAW FH Form 1853: A

# FATALITY